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A CATECHISM

OF THE

HISTORY OF ENGLAND

CONTAINING

THE MOST STRIKING EVENTS

FROM THE

EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT

ADAPTED TO THE USE OF SCHOOLS

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PAGE
- - 5
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- - - 10
- - - 11
- - - 13

an Conquest, A. D. 1066.

- - - - - 15

ed by Egbert, A. D.
- - - - - 17
- - - - - 18

Danish Conquest, A. D.
- - - - - 20
- - - - - 23
- - - - - 25

K III.

to the Accession of Henry IV.
D. 1399.

- - - - - - 28
- - - - - - 30
- - - - - - 33
- - - - - - 35
- - - - - -
- - - - -
- - - -
- - - -
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BY C. IRVING, LL.

HOLYROOD-HOUSE, SOUTH

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Southern District of New-York, ss.

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CONTENTS.

BOOK I.

From the Invasion of Julius Cæsar, 55 Years before Christ, to the Arrival of the Saxons, A. D. 449.

CHAP.		PAGE
I.	Of the Ancient Britons	5
II.	Religion and Government of the Ancient Britons	8
III.	The Roman Invasion	10
IV.	Britain a Roman Province	11
V.	The Departure of the Romans	13

BOOK II.

From the Arrival of the Saxons to the Norman Conquest, A. D. 1066.

I.	The Saxon Heptarchy	15
II.	The Kingdom of England founded by Egbert, A. D. 827	17
III.	Alfred the Great, A. D. 872	18
IV.	The Saxon Monarchy till the Danish Conquest, A. D. 1014	20
V.	The Danes in England	23
VI.	The Saxon Line restored	25

BOOK III.

From the Norman Conquest to the Accession of Henry IV. A. D. 1399.

I.	William the Conqueror	28
II.	William II.—Henry I.—Stephen	30
III.	Henry II.	33
IV.	Richard I.	35
V.	John	
VI.	Henry III.	
VII.	Edward I.	
VIII.	Edward II.	
IX.	Edward III.	
X.	Richard II.	

BOOK IV.

From the Accession of Henry IV. to the Accession of Henry VII. A. D. 1485.

CHAP.		PAGE
I.	Henry IV.	47
II.	Henry V.	49
III.	Henry VI.	51
IV.	Edward IV.	53
V.	Edward V.	55
VI.	Richard III.	56

BOOK V.

From the Accession of Henry VII. to the Beheading of Charles I. A. D. 1649.

I.	Henry VII.	58
II.	Henry VIII.	60
III.	Edward VI.	62
IV.	Mary	63
V.	Elizabeth	65
VI.	James I.	67
VII.	Charles I.	69

BOOK VI.

From the Formation of the Commonwealth to the Accession of the House of Brunswick, A. D. 1714.

I.	The Commonwealth	71
II.	Charles II.	73
III.	James II.	75
IV.	William III. and Mary II.	76
V.	Anne	78

BOOK VII.

From the Accession of the House of Brunswick to the present Time.

I.	George I.	80
II.	George II.	82
III.	George III.	85
IV.	George IV.	95

CATECHISM

OF THE

HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

BOOK I.

FROM THE INVASION OF JULIUS CÆSAR, FIFTY-FIVE YEARS BEFORE CHRIST, TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE SAXONS, A. D.* 449.

CHAPTER I.

Of the Ancient Britons.

Q. WHAT was the origin of the first inhabitants of England?

A. England appears to have been peopled by migrations from the opposite coasts of Gaul, the earliest of which took place about 1000 years before the birth of our Saviour.

Q. What name was given to the country?

A. The first name of this island was Albion, from its white cliffs; and afterward Britain, from a Celtic word denoting separation.

*A. D. Anno Domini, in the year of our Lord.

T. Describe the persons of the ancient Britons.

P. The ancient Britons were remarkable for their size and strength, and for the fairness of their complexions. They stained their skins with woad, which made it of a blue colour, and drew upon their bodies the figures of diff rent animals.

Q. What was their general character?

A. The ancient Britons were acute, ingenious, valorous in war, and great lovers of liberty; they were fond of feasting, and hospitality was one of their most shining virtues.

Q. What was their dress?

A. The dress of the ancient Britons consisted of mantles made of skins which covered the whole body, and their shoes were only a piece of the skin of a horse or cow.

Q. What else do you observe of their persons?

A. The ancient Britons prided themselves on the length and beauty of their hair, which they permitted to flow upon their backs and shoulders, but they shaved all their beard, except upon the upper lip.

T. Describe their habitations.

P. In the earliest times, the Britons lived in dens and caves in winter, and in summer in huts made of boughs and turf; but they afterward became more sociable, and enclosed a large

circuit with felled trees, within which they built their slight habitations.

Q. What were their occupations?

A. The principal occupations of the Britons were hunting, pasturage, agriculture, and war.

Q. What was their food?

A. The Britons for a long time lived on the produce of the chase, acorns, and other wild fruits, and their drink was only water; but the Belgæ introduced the practice of agriculture from Gaul; so that at the time of the Roman invasion they had corn, herds of cattle, and flocks of sheep.

T. Describe the method in which they took their meals.

P. The ancient Britons had only two meals, breakfast and supper, at which they sat upon the ground, with hay, or the skin of some animal, under them; they used no knives or forks, but tore the meat with their teeth, and drank out of the horns of oxen or other animals.

CHAPTER II.

The Religion and Government of the ancient Britons.

Q. What was the religion of the ancient Britons?

A. The ancient Britons were idolaters, worshipping the sun, moon, &c., to which they sacrificed not only beasts, but the blood of captives; they also believed in a Supreme Being, an evil demon, and the immortality of the soul.

Q. Who were the ministers of religion among the Britons?

A. The priests of the ancient Britons were called *Druids;* they were chosen from the best families, and enjoyed the highest honours and privileges.

Q. What was their mode of life?

A. The Druids lived in woods, caves, and hollow trees; their food was acorns and berries, and their drink water. They instructed youth in the principles of religion, as well as in astronomy, geometry, and natural philosophy.

Q. What else do you observe of the religion of the Britons?

A. The Britons never worshipped their gods under any roof, but in groves of oak, within which was a circular enclosure of large stones set perpendicular in the earth.

Q. What was the form of government among the Britons?

A. The most ancient form of government was the patriarchal;* but when Britain was invaded by the Romans, it contained many independent states, each composed of several tribes or clans.

Q. How were they governed in time of war?

A. Upon any dangerous emergency, or in time of war, a commander-in-chief was chosen by common consent, and to him was intrusted the care of the general interest.

Q. What is remarkable of their mode of warfar ?

A. The ancient Britons chiefly fought on foot, with swords, battle axes, or spears, and used a shield for their defence; they also used chariots, which had short scythes fastened to the end of the axle-trees, with which they mowed down the ranks of the enemy.

* A Patriarchal government is that in which the fathers or heads of families direct and govern their children and other relations; and this appears to have been the earliest mode of dominion, being founded on the natural authority of the parent.

CHAPTER III.

The Roman Invasion.*

Q. What was the cause which led to the invasion of Britain by the Romans?

A. Julius Cæsar, a Roman general, having conquered the warlike nations of Gaul, became ambitious of adding Britain also to the Roman empire; he therefore prepared to invade it, assuming, as a pretext, the assistance which the Britons had given to his enemies in Gaul.

T. Describe this expedition.

P. Cæsar set sail at midnight, and arrived in the morning on the coast of Britain, near Dover; but seeing the cliffs covered with armed men, he sailed as far as Deal, where he landed with very little opposition.

Q. What circumstance is worthy of remark at their landing?

A. The ships of Cæsar not being able to come close to the shore, the soldiers hesitated to encounter at once the waves and the brave natives, till induced by a standard bearer, who cried aloud, "Follow me, fellow soldiers,

* The Romans, so called from Rome their capital, were a people in the south of Italy, who by their discipline and valour conquered all the neighbouring nations, and finally became masters of the then known world. But abandoning themselves to luxury and effeminacy, they were for a long time oppressed by tyrants, and their power was finally annihilated by the inroads of northern barbarians.

unless you will betray the Roman eagle into the hands of the enemy; for my part, I am determined to discharge my duty to Cæsar and the commonwealth."

Q. What was the result of this expedition?

A. The Britons having fought several unsuccessful battles, were obliged to sue for peace, which Cæsar granted them, and returned to Gaul.

Q. Did Cæsar again return to Britain?

A. The ensuing year Cæsar returned with a numerous army, and although opposed by the natives, was successful in compelling them to pay tribute, and to give hostages.

Q. To what cause is the easy progress of the Romans ascribed?

A. At the time of the invasion, the Britons had chosen Cassibelaunus for their commander-in-chief; but some of the petty princes under his command, from suspicion or jealousy, withdrew their troops, while others submitted to Cæsar; so that Cassibelaunus was obliged to propose terms of peace.

CHAPTER IV.

Britain a Roman Province.

Q. When did the Romans next invade Britain?

A. The tribute imposed by Cæsar was never

paid, and the Britons remained unmolested for nearly a century; when the emperor Claudius undertook and executed an expedition, but with little success, A. D. 42.

Q. Who were most conspicuous in opposing the Romans?

A. Those who made the greatest stand against the Romans were Caractacus, and Boadicea the powerful queen of the Iceni; but after opposing and harassing the Romans during nine years, the former was taken prisoner, and the latter entirely defeated.*

Q. Were the Romans ultimately successful?

A. The Romans finally reduced that part of the island called England into a province; but being unable to subdue the Caledonians, Picts, and Scots, they built two famous walls, one between the Friths of Clyde and Forth, and the other between Tinmouth and the Solway Frith.

Q. What advantages did the Britons derive from being conquered?

A. The famous Roman general, Agricola, took great pains to introduce into Britain the Roman arts, sciences, and agriculture; he

* The observation of Caractacus, as he was led in triumph through the streets of Rome, is very memorable. "How is it possible," cried he, "that a people possessed of such magnificence at home, should envy Caractacus an humble cottage in Britain."—Boadicea, after her defeat, disdained to survive the liberties of her country, and put an end to her life by poison.

taught the youth the Roman language and mode of warfare, and erected statues, temples, theatres, and other public edifices.

CHAPTER V.

The Departure of the Romans.

Q. On what account did the Romans abandon Britain?

A. The Roman empire being overrun with barbarians, the troops that occupied Britain were recalled, after the island had been subject to the Romans upwards of 500 years.

Q. What took place after the departure of the Romans?

A. The Picts and Scots, finding the island finally deserted by the Romans, passed the walls with little difficulty, and filled the country with slaughter and desolation.

Q. How did the Britons act in this emergency?

A. The Britons having in vain applied to the Romans for assistance, at length agreed to call in two powerful Saxon chiefs, Hengist and Horsa, to defend them against the invaders.

Q. Who were the Saxons?

A. The Saxons were a warlike people inhabiting the north of Germany, where they

had rendered themselves formidable by their strength and valour.

Q. What was the religion of the Saxons?

A. The Saxons, on their arrival in England, and before their conversion to Christianity, were gross idolaters, worshipping a divinity called Odin, or Father of the Slain, who was represented by a great log of unfashioned wood, raised perpendicularly in the open air.

Q. What were the other Saxon divinities?

A. The days of the week derived their names from the principal idols of the Saxons, which were, the Sun; the Moon; Tuisco, the sun of the earth; Wodin, or Odin, their supreme divinity already mentioned. Thor, the thunderer, or ruler of the air; Frea, the wife of Odin, and goddess of love; and Seater, the god of trade and husbandry.

BOOK II.

FROM THE ARRIVAL OF THE SAXONS TO THE NORMAN CONQUEST. A D. 1066.

CHAPTER I.

The Saxon Heptarchy.

Q. What was the success of the Saxons on their arrival in Britain?

A. The Saxons on their arrival being joined by the British forces, marched against the Picts and Scots, and after having entirely defeated them, were rewarded with large possessions in the land which they had delivered.

Q. What was their subsequent conduct?

A. The Saxons, finding Britain much more fertile and alluring than their own residence, came over in great numbers; and, conscious of their superior valour, thought of conquering the country for themselves.

Q. Were they finally successful?

A. After a violent struggle of nearly 150 years, the Saxons subdued the whole of South Britain, except Wales and Cornwall, and established the seven kingdoms called the Saxon Heptarchy.

Q. What were their names?

A. The kingdoms which composed the Saxon Heptarchy were Kent, Sussex, Wessex, East Anglia, Mercia, Essex, and Northumberland.

Q. Who were the most celebrated for their opposition to the Saxons?

A. The princes who made the noblest stand against the Saxons were Vortimer, Ambrosius, and the celebrated King Arthur, who was killed A. D. 546.

Q. What was the effect of this conquest on the state of Britain?

A. By the conquest of the Saxons the whole southern part of the island, except Wales and Cornwall, changed its inhabitants, language, and customs; Christianity, literature, and the arts, which the Romans had introduced, were extirpated, and idolatry, darkness, and desolation took their place.

Q. How long did the Saxon Heptarchy continue?

A. Soon after the establishment of the Saxon Heptarchy, jealousies and dissensions arose among the Saxon chiefs; and after above 200 years of almost continued warfare, the seven kingdoms fell under the power of Egbert, king of Wessex.

CHAPTER II.

The Kingdom of England founded by Egbert, A. D. 827.

Q. What was the character of Egbert?

A. Egbert was no less celebrated for his bravery, virtue, and talents, than for the prudence and moderation with which he regulated his infant monarchy.

Q. What are the most remarkable occurrences in his reign?

A. In the reign of Egbert the Danes became formidable to England by their frequent invasions, and although routed several times with dreadful slaughter, still continued their irruptions.

Q. In what manner were these expeditions conducted?

A. The Danes when they landed always avoided coming to a general engagement, but scattering themselves in small parties over the country, burned or carried off to their ships every thing that came in their way, goods, cattle, and women, so that the whole kingdom was kept in continual alarm.

Q. Who succeeded Egbert?

A. To Egbert succeeded his son Ethelwolf, who, possessing neither the valour nor

abilities of his father, was unable to resist the renewed and more formidable irruptions of the Danes.

Q. Who were the succeding sovereigns?

A. The successors of Ethelwolf were Ethelbald, a very wicked prince, Ethelbert, and Ethelred.

Q. What progress had the Danes by this time made in the kingdom?

A. In the reign of Ethelbald the Danes first wintered in England, and in the time of Ethelred, notwithstanding the bravery of his brother Alfred, they gained possession of the sea coasts and the finest provinces of England.

CHAPTER III.

Alfred the Great, A. D. 871—901.

Q. UNDER what circumstances did Alfred commence his reign?

A. Ethelred having fallen in opposing the Danes, Alfred succeeded at 22 years of age, and found his subjects inactive and dispirited, while the Danes had penetrated into the very heart of his dominions.

Q. What was his conduct on coming to the throne?

A. Alfred having restored confidence among his subjects, harrassed the Danes with such

vigour, that they agreed to evacuate the kingdom; but being reinforced, the English submitted, after various struggles, and Alfred was obliged to conceal himself in disguise.*

Q. How long did he remain inactive?

A. Alfred had been hardly a twelvemonth in his retreat, when he heard that the Earl of Devonshire had routed a party of Danes, and taken the famous *reafen* or enchanted standard of the enemy.

Q. How did Alfred then act?

A. Before Alfred assembled his subjects in arms, he entered the Danish camp in the disguise of a harper, and having observed their careless security, he rejoined his followers, and leading them against the enemy, gained a complete victory.

Q. What use did he make of his victory?

A. Alfred allowed the remainder of the Danes, who implored his clemency, to settle in East Anglia and Northumberland, on condition that they should embrace Christianity, to which they submitted, and retired peaceably to their new possessions.

Q. What were the consequences of this victory?

* The place of Alfred's retreat was in the island of Athelney, at the confluence of the rivers Parret and Thone, in Somersetshire.

A. England being now at peace, Alfred set about rebuilding the ruined cities, and bringing the minds of men back to industry, religion, and justice.

Q. What measures did he adopt for this purpose?

A. Alfred divided the kingdom into shires, or counties, established a regular militia, and guarded the coasts with a powerful navy: he also founded the university of Oxford, and established the mode of trial by jury, the greatest security of our liberties.

Q. When did he die?

A. Alfred died A. D. 901, in the 30th year of his reign.

Q. What character is given of this prince?

A. Alfred may be considered as the greatest warrior, legislator, and scholar, of the age in which he lived: he died universally lamented, bearing with him the appellation of *Great*, which he merited as well by his talents as by his great virtues.

CHAPTER IV.

The Saxon Monarchy till the Danish conquest, A. D. 1014.

Q. Who succeeded Alfred the Great?

A. Alfred was succeeded by his only sur-

viving son Edward, who, inheriting the military genius of his father, suppressed the insurrections of the Danes and Northumbrians; he reigned 24 years, and was succeeded by Athelstan, his natural son.

Q. What do you observe of Athelstan?

A. In the early part of his reign, Athelstan was engaged in successful wars with the Danes and Scots; but he spent the remainder in peace, employing his talents in the internal regulation of his kingdom.*

Q. By whom was he succeeded?

A. On the death of Athelstan, his brother Edmund ascended the throne, and distinguished himself by his vigilance and sagacity; his reign, however, was but short, being stabbed by Leolf, a robber, A. D. 946.

Q. What are the most remarkable occurrences of the succeeding reign?

A. Edmund was succeeded by his brother Edred, who, after bravely crushing a rebellion of the Northumbrian Danes, became the slave of superstition, being implicitly directed in all things by Dunstan, abbot of Glastonbury.

Q. What was the character of his successor?

* Athelstan gave great encouragement to commerce, and enacted a law, that a merchant who had made three long voyages on his own account, should be raised to the rank of a thane or nobleman.

A. Edwy, the late king's nephew, who ascended the throne, was a prince of a martial disposition, and of great personal accomplishments: his reign is remarkable for the outrages and cruelties which, under the influence of a degrading bigotry, were committed upon the person of his beautiful, but unfortunate queen Elgiva.

Q. What do you observe of King Edgar?

A. Edgar was only thirteen years of age when he received the crown, but soon rendered himself formidable by a powerful army and navy: his reign was very tranquil, and distinguished only by his amours, and by the extirpation of wolves in England.*

Q. Who succeeded Edgar?

A. Edgar was succeeded by his son Edward, surnamed the Martyr, from his having been murdered at the instigation of his stepmother Elfrida, to make room for her own son Ethelred.

Q. What is the character of Ethelred?

A. Ethelred, from his weakness and irresolution, acquired the surname of *Unready;* the Danes, taking advantage of his incapacity, renewed their depredations, and to get rid of them the king agreed to pay them 10,000*l.*

* Edgar effected this by changing the tribute money, which had been imposed upon the Welch princes by Athelstan, into an annual tribute of 300 wolves' heads.

Q. What barbarous act did Ethelred afterward instigate towards the Danes?

A. In the year 1002 the King ordered the massacre of all Danish troops throughout his dominions; but the populace, instigated by the recollection of former injuries, did not distinguish between innocence and guilt, and spared neither age nor sex.

Q. What was the consequence of this horrid deed?

A. This perfidious conduct served only to enrage the Danish king, Sweyn, who, in 1013, obliged Ethelred and his family to flee to Normandy, a province of France, and was himself acknowledged king of England.

CHAPTER V.

The Danes in England.

Q. How long did Sweyn enjoy the throne, and what event followed his death?

A. Sweyn survived his exaltation to the throne of England but a few weeks, and Ethelred was recalled by the nobles and prelates.

Q. By whom was he opposed?

A. Ethelred soon found Canute, the son and successor of Sweyn, as formidable an enemy

as his father, and dying soon after, left his throne to his son Edmund, surnamed *Ironside*, from his hardy valour.

Q. What was the character of Edmund?

A. Edmund distinguished himself by his fortitude, prudence, and generosity; but his abilities and courage, though great, were unable to save his sinking country, and he was obliged to divide the kingdom with his Danish rival.

Q. What was the manner of his death?

A. Soon after the division of the kingdom, Edmund was treacherously murdered at Oxford, and Canute was left in peaceable possession of the whole kingdom.

Q. What do you remark of the reign of Canute?

A. Although the beginning of Canute's dominion was marked with severity and oppression, he afterward acquired the confidence of the English government by his piety, and the impartiality of his administration: he died A. D. 1035, after a reign of 18 years.

Q. What were the principal events of this reign?

A. Canute, assisted by a body of English troops, added Norway to his Danish dominions, and having compelled Malcolm, king of Scotland, to do him homage, he became the most powerful monarch of his time, and was honoured with the surname of Great.

Q. Who was his successor?

A. Canute was succeeded on the English throne by his son Harold, of whom nothing memorable is recorded.

Q. Who next filled the throne?

A. The successor of Harold was Hardicanute, a degenerate prince, who lost the affections of his subjects by his cruelty, avarice, and intemperance. He died of a debauch, A. D. 1041, and was the last of the Danish kings.

CHAPTER VI.

The Saxon line restored.

Q. Who succeeded Hardicanute?

A. Upon the death of Hardicanute, Edward, the son of Ethelred, was called to the throne by the universal consent of the nation. He was a great benefactor to the church, and by means of such generosity, as well as by his piety, he obtained the title of Saint, or Confessor.

Q. What do you remark of his reign?

A. The partiality shown by Edward to the Normans occasioned a powerful insurrection, which ended in the suppression of foreign influence. He died after a peaceable reign of

25 years, without issue, and without appointing a successor.

Q. By whom was he succeeded?

A. Edward being dead, Harold, the son of Earl Goodwin,* ascended the throne without opposition; the voice of the people supported his claim, and he was crowned by the Archbishop of York the day after Edward's death.

Q. What was the character of Harold?

A. Harold was a valiant, virtuous, and enterprising prince, who had acquired the love and confidence of the English by his justice and generosity; but he possessed only a short time the crown he was so worthy and able to bear.

Q. By whom was he opposed?

A. Harold's right to the crown was contended by William, Duke of Normandy, who pretended that the kingdom had been bequeathed to him by Edward the Confessor.

Q. What was the issue of their rivalry?

A. While Harold was in the north routing the Norwegians, who had made a descent, William landed a powerful army of 60,000 men at Pevensey, in Sussex; Harold hastened to oppose him, and in the battle of Hastings bravely fell in the defence of his crown.—This san-

* Earl Goodwin was a popular English nobleman of Saxon descent, and nearly allied to the royal family. He was the most powerful subject in the kingdom, and with his son Harold had the chief direction of affairs during the reign of the Confessor.

guinary battle lasted from day-break till sun-set, and the victory was disputed with equal bravery on both sides. At length the Normans, feigning a retreat, drew the English into the plain, and suddenly facing about, drove them back with great slaughter. They however maintained the contest with vigour, and the issue was still doubtful when Harold was slain by an arrow while fighting on foot in the foremost ranks. The English, dispirited by the loss of their leader, gave way in every direction, and the victorious Normans returned thanks to Heaven on the field of battle.

BOOK III.

FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST TO THE ACCESSION OF HENRY IV., A. D. 1399.

CHAPTER I.

William the Conqueror, A. D. 1066—1087.

Q. WHO was William the Conqueror?

A. William, who after his accession to the English throne was called the Conqueror, was the natural son of Robert, Duke of Normandy, to whose title he succeeded, and early distinguished himself by his great abilities, both as a statesman and a warrior.

Q. What followed his victory over Harold?

A. Immediately after the battle, William proceeded by forced marches to London, and on his approach, Stigand, the Archbishop of Canterbury, with the chief nobility, entered his camp, and made him a formal offer of the crown, upon condition that he should govern according to the customs of the country.

Q. When was he crowned?

A. William was crowned on Christmas day, 1066, in the presence of the principal nobility, and took the usual oath to observe the laws of

the realm, and to govern the people with moderation.

Q. What do you observe of his reign?

A. The beginning of William's reign was mild and humane, but a secret conspiracy having been formed in his absence for a general massacre of the Normans, he treated the English with the utmost rigour, divided almost all the lands among his followers, and established the curfew-bell.*

Q. What were the other occurrences of this reign?

A. William introduced the feudal system and attempted to abolish the English language; he also caused the New Forest to be laid out, and Doomsday Book† to be compiled.

Q. What was the cause of his death?

A. William having gone over to Normandy to quell an insurrection of his sons, excited by the King of France, died at Mantis, from a bruise which he received on horseback, in the 63d year of his age, and the 21st of his reign over England.

Q. What sovereigns were contemporary with William the Conqueror?

* The Curfew, or *Couvre-few* (cover fire), was a bell rung every night at eight o'clock, at which time the English had to extinguish their fires and candles.

† Doomsday Book is a register of all the lands in the kingdom, their proprietors, tenure, and value. It is still preserved in the Exchequer.

A. During the reign of William I. France was governed by Philip I.; Germany by Henry IV.; and Scotland by Malcolm III. and Donald VII.

CHAPTER II.

William II.—Henry I.—Stephen.

A. D. 1087—1155.

Q. By whom was William the Conqueror succeeded?

A. William the Conqueror was succeeded by his second son William, surnamed Rufus, from his red hair; he was a brave and intrepid prince, but actuated by rapacity, ambition, and avarice.

Q. What were the most remarkable events of his reign?

A. William was engaged in perpetual wars with his rebellious subjects; he also purchased the Dutchy of Normandy from his elder brother Robert, repelled the invasions of the Welsh, and obliged Malcolm, King of Scotland, to do him homage.

Q. What was the manner of his death?

A. As William was hunting in the New-Forest, he was shot by an arrow discharged at a deer, which glancing from a tree, struck him to the heart, A. D. 1100, in the 40th year of his age, and the 13th of his reign.

Q. Who next ascended the throne?

A. William having no sons, his brother Henry, who had been hunting with him at the time of his death, secured the royal treasure at Winchester, and hastened to London, where he was solemnly crowned three days after, although his elder brother Robert, the rightful heir, was then returning from the Holy Land.

Q. What did Henry do to render himself popular?

A. Henry gained the affections of his people my marrying Matilda, a descendant of their Saxon monarchs, and by granting them a charter, in which he restored many of their ancient laws and privileges.

Q. What are the principal occurrences of his reign?

A. Henry deprived his brother Robert of the Dutchy of Normandy, and detained him a prisoner above 27 years, till his death; he afterward engaged in a successful war with France, but had the misfortune to lose his only son William, who was drowned in his passage from that country.

Q. What occasioned his death?

A. Henry died in Normandy, from eating too plentifully of lampreys, in the 67th year of his age, and the 35th year of his reign, having settled the succession upon his daughter Matilda, and her infant son Henry.*

* Matilda or Maud was first married to Henry V: emperor of Germany, and afterwards to Geoffrey Plantagenet, earl of Anjou, by the latter of whom she had three sons.

Q. What was the character of Henry I.?

A. Henry, surnamed Beauclerk, or the scholar, from his progress in literature, was one of the greatest princes of his age, as well for his power, as for his prudence, bravery, and shining talents; but his ungenerous and cruel conduct to his brother Robert is an indelible stain on his character.

Q. Who succeeded Henry I.?

A. On the death of Henry, the crown was seized by Stephen, Count of Blois, who by means of his brother, the Bishop of Winchester, gained the clergy to his interests, and got himself acknowledged by the barons by increasing their privileges.

Q. By whom was he opposed?

A. Matilda, the daughter of Henry, soon landed in England, and found herself at the head of a powerful party: she therefore raised an army, which, under the command of her brother the earl of Gloucester, defeated the troops of Stephen and took him prisoner in 1141.

Q. How did Matilda conduct herself in her elevation?

A. Matilda, being seated on the throne, treated the nobles and clergy with pride and disdain, and refused to re-establish the Saxon laws; upon which the standard of Stephen was erected, the queen obliged to fly, and the king again set at liberty.

Q. How did this contest terminate?

A. Henry the son of Matilda, came over to England to renew the contest; but Eustace, Stephen's only son, dying, it was agreed that Stephen should enjoy the crown during his life, and that Henry should inherit the kingdom at his death.

Q. How long did Stephen survive this transaction?

A. Stephen enjoyed the crown in peace about a year, and died at Canterbury, A. D. 1154, after a turbulent reign of 19 years.

Q. Who were the contemporary sovereigns?

A. The contemporary sovereigns were Louis VI. and Louis VII., of France; Lothaire II. Conrad III., and Frederick I., of Germany; and Edgar, Alexander, and David, kings of Scotland.

CHAPTER III.

HOUSE OF PLANTAGENET.

Henry the Second, A. D. 1155—1190.

Q. WHAT were the first acts of Henry's administration.

A. Henry the Second began his reign by correcting the abuses that had crept into the

government; he demolished the castles of the barons, dismissed all the mercenary troops, gave charters to several towns, and enacted a rigorous execution of justice.

Q. What were the dominions of this monarch?

A. Henry II., on his accession to the throne, was the most powerful sovereign in Europe; besides the kingdom of England, he was master of above a third of the whole French monarchy, including Normandy, Britanny, Anjou, Gienne; Poictou, Maine, &c., and afterward added Ireland to his dominions.

Q. What was the cause of his death?

A. Henry is said to have died of a broken heart, caused by the repeated rebellions of his sons; having maintained till the last the reputation of the greatest prince of his age for wisdom, valour, and abilities.

Q. What is the most remarkable event in his reign?

A. The most remarkable event is the assassination of Thomas-a-Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, who having raised disturbances in the kingdom by his opposition to the king's measures, was murdered before the altar of his own church, by four knights of Henry's household.

Q. What other occurrences are deserving of mention?

A. Henry walked barefoot to Becket's tomb, and submitted to be scourged by the monks: but his greatest blemish was his amour with the fair Rosamond, the most beautiful woman of her time.

Q. What sovereigns were contemporary with Henry II.?

A. During the reign of Henry II., Frederick I. was emperor of Germany; Louis VII. and Philip III. kings of France; and David, Malcolm IV., and William, kings of Scotland.

CHAPTER IV.

Richard the First, A. D. 1190—1199.

Q. Who next ascended the throne?

A. Henry II. was succeeded by his eldest surviving son Richard, who was no sooner king than he undertook a crusade against the Infidels, in which he signalized himself by his valour and heroism.

Q. What were the crusades?

A. The crusades were expeditions undertaken by the Christian princes of Europe, in order to deliver Jerusalem and the Holy Land out of the hands of the Infidels, or Saracens.

Q. What befell Richard on his return?

A. On his way home Richard was shipwrecked on the coast of Italy, and having assumed the disguise of a pilgrim, was arrested in passing through Germany, and thrown into a dungeon; from which, however, he was soon ransomed by his subjects.

Q. What occasioned his death?

A. Richard received his death-wound when besieging one of his vassals in the castle of Chalons, in the 42d year of his age, and after a reign of ten years, passed in almost continual hostilities.

Q. What was the character of Richard?

A. Richard possessed the highest military talents, and his intrepidity had acquired him the appellation of *Cœur de Lion*, or Lion-hearted: although ambitious and haughty, he was open, generous and sincere; and gained the affections of his subjects by his splendid victories.

Q. Who were the contemporary sovereigns?

A. The sovereigns contemporary with Richard were, Henry VI. and Philip I. Emperors of Germany; Philip II. of France; Sancho I. of Portugal; Canute V. of Denmark; and William of Scotland.

CHAPTER V.

John. A. D. 1199—1216.

Q. By whom was Richard succeeded?

A. Richard, having left no children, was succeeded by his brother John, surnamed *Sans-terre*, or Lack-Land.

Q. What were the first acts of his reign?

A. After having subjected his revolted provinces in France, John is accused of having murdered, with his own hand, his nephew Arthur, who was at the head of the insurgents.

Q. What were the consequences of this horrid deed?

A. The death of Arthur excited general horror and detestation of the tyrant; the barons refused to grant him succours, and his continental dominions were confiscated by the king of France.

T. Relate the other occurrences of this reign.

P. In consequence of his quarrel with the pope, the nation was laid under an interdict;* and having afterward shamefully done homage

* By this sentence the churches were shut; the bells removed from the steeples; the dead were thrown into ditches, or buried in common fields, without any funeral solemnity; the people were forbidden to salute each other, or even to shave their beards; and every deprivation was enforced by the clergy

to the pope's legate, and consented to pay tribute, his submission so enraged the barons that they formed a confederacy, and proceeded to open war.

Q. What were the consequences of this dispute?

A. John, finding himself almost deserted, met his barons at Runnemede, between Staines and Windsor, and there signed that famous deed called *Magna Charta*, or the Great Charter, which is still regarded as the glorious basis of British freedom.

Q. When did he die?

A. John died of a fever in 1216, as he was advancing against Louis, the French prince, whom the barons had invited over, to protect them from the renewed violence of the tyrant.

Q. What was the character of John?

A. John was despised for his cowardice, and hated for his cruelty; and his character has been justly held up to posterity, as a collection of almost every vice that can disgrace human nature.

Q. What sovereigns were contemporary with John?

A. The contemporaries of John were the Popes Innocent III. and Honorius III.; the

that was calculated to strike with awe the minds of a superstitious people.

Emperors Otho IV. and Frederick II. of Germany; King Philip II. of France; and William and Alexander II. of Scotland.

CHAPTER VI.

Henry the Third. A. D. 1216—1272.

Q. Who was Henry III.?

A. Henry III. was the son of John, and being only nine years of age when he came to the throne, the earl of Pembroke was chosen protector of the realm.

Q. What character is given of this prince?

A. Henry was gentle and humane, but without activity or vigour; and as he grew up, he showed himself totally unfit to subdue the turbulence of his nobles.

Q. What was his principal weakness?

A. The chief weakness of this monarch was his attachment to foreigners, which excited the barons to arms; and after having forced him to renew the Great Charter, they appointed 24 commissioners to superintend the administration of affairs.

Q. What was the result of these contentions?

A. In the civil war which ensued, the king and his two sons were taken prisoners; but

Edward the eldest, having made his escape, defeated the rebels, and restored his father to the throne.

Q. What do you observe of the remainder of this reign?

A. During the absence of his son Edward in the Holy Land, the king, worn out with age, and the cares of government, expired in the 64th year of his age, and the 56th of his reign.

Q. What are the remarkable events of this reign?

A. In the reign of Henry III. the first regular parliament was assembled, and marriage first solemnized in churches.

Q. Who were the contemporary sovereigns?

A. During the reign of Henry III., Frederick II. reigned over Germany; Louis VIII. Louis IX. and Philip III. governed France; and Alexander II. and Alexander III. reigned in Scotland.

CHAPTER VII.

Edward the First. A. D. 1272—1307.

Q. What were the first acts of Edward's reign?

A. Edward I. began his reign by con-

firming the great charter, protecting the people against the oppressions of the barons, and making strict inquiries into the affairs of the state.

Q. What were the military transactions of this reign?

A. Edward conquered Wales, and gave it as a principality to his eldest son; he also invaded Scotland, but after taking possession of the whole kingdom, William Wallace rescued the country from the English yoke, and was appointed regent.

Q. What was the result of this war?

A. Edward advanced with a powerful army and defeated Wallace, who some years afterward was betrayed into his hands, and put to death in London, with the most brutal ferocity.

Q. What do you observe of the remainder of this reign?

A. The Scots, having again revolted, chose Robert Bruce for their king, and Edward was hastening with an immense force to subdue them, when he died of a sudden illness at Carlisle, in the 35th year of his reign, and the 69th of his age, A. D. 1307.

Q. What was the character of this prince?

A. Edward I, surnamed Longshanks, distinguished himself both as a warrior and

a statesman, enacting many wise statutes for the protection of the lower orders of the people: he was affable in his manners, and was much beloved and respected by his subjects.

Q. What sovereigns were contemporary with Edward I.?

A. Edward's contemporaries were Rodolph I. Adolphus, and Albert, emperors of Germany; Philip III. and IV. kings of France; and Alexander III. John Baliol, and Robert Bruce, kings of Scotland.

CHAPTER VIII.

Edward the Second. A. D. 1307—1327.

Q. WHO succeeded Edward I.?

A. Edward I. was succeeded by his son Edward II. a mild, gentle, and inoffensive prince; but indolent, debauched, and much attached to favourites.

Q. What are the chief events of this reign?

A. Edward lost the battle of Bannockburn, which secured the independence of Scotland; and the remainder of his reign was a series of civil commotions, caused by his partiality to his favourites, Gaveston and Spencer.

Q. What was the manner of his death ?

A. Edward was seized by the rebel barons, at the instigation of his queen Isabella, and her paramour Mortimer, and was cast into prison, where he was barbarously murdered, A. D. 1327, after a turbulent reign of 20 years.

Q. Who were his competitors ?

A. Contemporary with Edward II. were Henry VIII. and Louis IV., emperors of Germany; Philip IV., Louis X., Philip V., and Charles IV., kings of France; and Robert Bruce, king of Scotland.

CHAPTER IX.

Edward the Third. A. D. 1327—1377.

Q. What do you observe of the commencement of this reign ?

A. When Edward III. who then was very young, assumed the reins of government, Mortimer was hanged, and the queen-dowager was confined for life.

Q. In what wars was he engaged ?

A. After having obliged the king of Scotland to do him homage, Edward laid claim to the crown of France, and having invaded

that country, gained the memorable battles of Cressy and Poictiers, in the latter of which the Prince of Wales took the French king prisoner.

Q. What are the other events of this reign?

A. The king of Scotland having invaded England during the absence of Edward, his queen Philippa gave the Scots battle, defeated them, and captured their king: towards the end of this reign, the English lost all their conquests in France.*

Q. What was the cause of Edward's death?

A. Edward is said to have died of melancholy, for the loss of his eldest son, the Prince of Wales,† who was universally beloved for his bravery and virtues: he expired A. D. 1337, in the 65th year of his age, and 51st of his reign; one of the longest and most glorious in the annals of England.

Q. What eminent men lived in this reign?

A. In the reign of Edward III. lived Chaucer, the father of English poetry, and Wickliffe, the first Reformer.

Q. What inventions took place?

* With the exception of the towns of Calais, Bayonne, and Bourdeaux.

† Surnamed the Black Prince from the colour of his armour. After the battle of Cressy, in which the king of Bohemia was slain, the Prince of Wales adopted his crest, which was three ostrich feathers, with his motto, Ich dien, I serve; and his successors have borne this device ever since.

A. In this reign also gold was first coined, gunpowder and guns were invented, and the order of the Garter was instituted.

Q. Who were the contemporary sovereigns?

A. The sovereigns contemporary with Edward III. were, Louis IV. and Charles IV., of Germany; Charles IV., of France, Robert Bruce, David II. Edward Baliol, and Robert II., the first of the Stuarts.

CHAPTER X.

Richard the Second. A. D. 1377—1399.

Q. Who next ascended the throne?

A. Edward III. was succeeded by his grandson Richard II., who being but eleven years of age when he came to the throne was placed under the guardianship of his three uncles.

Q. What insurrection took place in the early part of this reign?

A. An oppression tax having been imposed upon the people, 100,000 insurgents, with Wat Tyler at their head, assembled at Blackheath, where they were met by the king; but Tyler, making his demands in an insolent manner,

was killed, and order restored by the presence of mind of the young king.*

Q. What was the subsequent conduct of the king?

A. Richard excited great discontent in the nation by his severity and injustice; so that at last the barons took up arms, made the king prisoner, and, after having tried him, he was deposed; and the Duke of Lancaster, his cousin, made king, by the title of Henry IV.

Q. What was the manner of his death?

A. Richard was starved to death in Pomfret-castle, in the 34th year of his age, and 23d of his reign, A. D. 1399.

Q. What was the character of this prince?

A. Richard was fond of idle ostentation and luxurious pleasures, and became the dupe of worthless favourites, who, taking advantage of his weakness and effeminacy, urged him to acts of tyranny and oppression.

Q. To what did the disposition of Richard give rise?

* During the conference, Wat Tyler occasionally lifted up his sword in a menacing manner, which so irritated Walworth, the mayor of London, that he struck him to the ground with his mace, where he was soon despatched by the king's attendants. The multitude were preparing to revenge the death of their leader, when Richard rode up to them, and cried out, "What, my people, will you then kill your king? Are you concerned for the loss of your leader? follow me, I myself will now be your general." The populace, overawed by his manner, followed him into the fields, where they peaceably separated upon his granting them a charter for the redress of their grievances.

A. The disposition of Richard and the usurpation of the Duke of Lancaster, gave rise to the contest between the houses of York and Lancaster, which, for many years after, filled the kingdom with anarchy and bloodshed.

Q. Who were the contemporary sovereigns?

A. The contemporaries of Richard II. were, Charles IV. and Wenceslaus, emperors of Germany; Charles V., and Charles VI. kings of France; Margaret, queen of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden; Robert II. and Robert III., kings of Scotland.

BOOK IV.

FROM THE ACCESSION OF HENRY IV. TO THE ACCESSION OF HENRY VII. A. D. 1485.

CHAPTER I.

HOUSE OF LANCASTER.

Henry the Fourth. A. D. 1399—1413.

Q. WHO was Henry IV.?

A. Henry IV. was son of John Gaunt duke of Lancaster, fourth son of Edward III.

Q. What were the principal events of this reign?

A. The only event of note in the reign of Henry IV. before his death, became subject to fits, with one of which he was seized at his devotions before the shrine of Edward the Confessor, in Westminster Abbey, and expired, in the 46th year of his age, and 13th of his reign, A. D. 1413.

Q. What was his character?

A. Henry IV. possessed great military talents and political wisdom; but he lost the affection of his subjects by his usurpation and the murder of his lawful king.

Q. What invention took place in this reign?

A. Cards were invented about this time for the amusement of Charles VI. king of France, who, being subject to frequent fits of insanity, used them during his intervals of reason.

Q. What sovereigns were contemporary with Henry IV.?

A. The contemporary sovereigns were Wenceslaus, Robert le Pet, and Sigismund, of Germany; Charles VI., of France; Margaret and Eric XIII., of Denmark and Sweden; and Robert III., of Scotland.

CHAPTER II.

Henry the Fifth. A. D. 1413—1422.

Q. WHAT was the conduct of Henry V. before he became king?

A. Henry V. when Prince of Wales was notorious for all kinds of debauchery, and often when heated with wine, accompanied his profligate companions in robbing the passengers on the highway.*

* One of his companions having been brought to trial before Sir William Gascoigne, the chief justice, Prince Henry appeared with him in court, and finding that he was condemned notwithstanding his interference, he was so enraged that he struck the justice upon the bench, but Gascoigne, mindful of the dignity of his office, ordered the prince to be committed to prison. When his father, Henry IV., heard of this transaction, he

Q. What were the first acts of his reign?

A. The first measures of Henry after he came to the throne were to dismiss his former dissolute companions, and to receive the wise ministers of his father who had checked his riots.

Q. What were the principal events of this reign?

A. Henry invaded France, where he gained the celebrated battle of Agincourt: and having conquered the whole kingdom, was appointed regent and heir to the French monarchy.

Q. Of what did he die?

A. Henry had nearly reached the summit of glory, when he was seized with a fistula, which terminated his days in the 34th year of his age, and the 10th of his reign, A. D. 1422.

Q. What was the character of this king?

A. Henry V. far excelled the other princes of his age in the arts of war and government, endearing his friends by his engaging manners, and overcoming his enemies by his address and clemency.

Q. Who were Henry's contemporaries?

A. The sovereigns contemporary with Henry V. were Sigismund, emperor of Germany; Charles VI. king of France; Eric XIII. of Denmark and Sweden; and Robert III. of Scotland.

exclaimed, "Happy is the king who has a magistrate endowed with courage to execute the laws upon such an offender: still more happy in having a son willing to submit to such a chastisement."

CHAPTER III.

Henry the Sixth. A. D. 1422—1471.

Q. By whom was Henry V. succeeded?

A. Henry V. was succeeded by his only son Henry VI., who being not yet a year old, the government both of England and France was intrusted to his uncles the dukes of Bedford and Gloucester.

Q. What took place at the commencement of this reign?

A. Henry VI., soon after his accession, was crowned king of France at Paris, but by degrees the English lost ground in that kingdom, and were finally dispossessed of all their conquests, through the enthusiasm raised by the famous Joan d'Arc, called the Maid of Orleans.*

Q. What were the other events of this reign?

A. Henry was very unfortunate in his choice

* Joan d'Arc was a country girl, who fancied herself destined by heaven to rescue France out of the hands of the English. Receiving encouragement from the court, she succeeded in raising the siege of Orleans, and led the French army from victory to victory, till she caused the king to be crowned at Rheims; she was, however, shortly after taken and tried for sorcery and magic, and being found guilty, was cruelly burnt to death as a sorceress, for having rendered signal services to her prince and country.

of ministers, which was the cause of an alarming insurrection headed by John Cade; and shortly after its suppression, Richard duke of York laid claim to the crown, and raised an army to second his pretensions.

Q. What name was given to this contest?

A. The civil wars which followed were called the quarrel between the two roses, from the symbols of the contending parties, that of Lancaster being a red rose, and that of York a white one.

Q. What was the result of these wars?

A. After being for a long time successful, the duke of York was killed at the battle of Wakefield, but his son Edward, assisted by the earl of Warwick,* continued the claim, and having routed the king's army was proclaimed king.

Q. What was the fate of king Henry?

A. Henry, after having been detained in prison nine years, was once more placed on the throne by the earl of Warwick; but his party being again overthrown in the battle of Barnet, he was confined in the Tower, where he died by the hands of Richard duke of Gloucester, A. D. 1471.

Q. What was the character of this prince?

A. Henry discovered from his youth marks

* The earl of Warwick, called the *King Maker*, was the most powerful nobleman in England, and was distinguished by his bravery, hospitality, and magnificence.

of weakness and incapacity, and at times was subject to fits of madness; but his general disposition was pious and humane, and he liberally rewarded learning and merit.

Q. Who were the contemporary sovereigns?

A. The contemporaries of Henry VI. were, Sigismund, Albert II., and Frederick III., emperors of Germany; Charles VII. and Louis XI., kings of France; Eric IX., of Denmark and Sweden; and Robert III., James I., James II., and James III., sovereigns of Scotland.

CHAPTER IV.

HOUSE OF YORK.

Edward the Fourth. A. D. 1461—1483.

Q. Who was Edward IV.?

A. Edward IV. was the son of Richard duke of York, who, being descended from Lionel, third son of Edward III, had a claim to the throne prior to that of the house of Lancaster, who were descended from a younger son of the same monarch.

Q. What difficulties had he to contend with?

A. When Edward was elected king by the

army and by the people of London, the greatest part of the kingdom still acknowledged subjection to Henry VI.; but after gaining the sanguinary victories of Tourton and Hexham, his title was recognised by parliament, and quietly submitted to by the people.

Q. From what quarter was he again opposed?

A. Edward having given cause of offence to the earl of Warwick, that nobleman became his most inveterate enemy, and espousing the cause of the captive Henry, replaced him on the throne, and obliged Edward to fly to Holland.

Q. Did Edward regain possession of the crown?

A. Edward returned to England with a few troops, and being joined by his partisans, defeated and slew his great opponent in the battle of Barnet; and soon after triumphed over queen Margaret at Tewkesbury, where that spirited princess was made prisoner, together with her son Prince Edward.*

Q. How did he then conduct himself?

* The young prince being brought before Edward after the battle, and being asked by the king how he dared to invade his dominions, boldly replied, that he came thither to avenge his father's injuries and to redress his own; upon which the barbarous monarch struck him upon the mouth with his gauntlet, and his brothers, hurrying him into an adjoining apartment, basely despatched him with their daggers. Richard is said also to have murdered King Henry VI. a few days after in prison.

A. Edward exercised horrible cruelties upon his enemies, and even put his brother the Duke of Clarence to death; at the same time abandoning himself to riot and debauchery, which brought him to an untimely end, in the 42d year of his age, and the 23d of his reign, A. D. 1483.

Q. How many children had he?

A. Edward IV. left two sons, Edward Prince of Wales, then in his 13th year, and Richard Duke of York, in his ninth; besides five daughters.

Q. What useful discovery was introduced into England during this reign?

A. While the country was distracted by civil commotions, the art of printing was introduced at London, by William Caxton, a merchant, in 1471, and from that period the English made a more rapid progress in literature than any other nation of Europe.

Q. Who were the contemporary sovereigns?

A. Frederick II. of Germany; Mahomet II. first emperor of the Turks; Louis IX. of France; Christian I. of Denmark and Sweden; and James III. of Scotland.

CHAPTER V.

Edward the Fifth. A. D. 1483.

Q. In whom was the government of the kingdom vested during the king's minority?

A. Edward V. being but thirteen years of age at his accession, was put under the charge of the Duke of Rivers; and his uncle, Richard Duke of Gloucester, was declared Protector.

Q. How did he conduct himself in that office?

A. Gloucester was no sooner invested with the protectorate than he got the young king and his brother into his power, put to death the lords Rivers and Hastings, and by the assistance of the Duke of Buckingham, usurped the crown.

Q. What followed his usurpation?

A. In order to secure his ill-gotten power, Richard ordered the two princes to be assassinated, and they were accordingly suffocated with the bolster and pillows as they lay asleep in the Tower, only a few months after their father's death, A. D. 1483.

CHAPTER VI.

Richard the Third. A. D. 1483—1484.

Q. What were the first acts of Richard's administration?

A. Richard sought to establish his authority by bestowing rewards on those who had assisted him in his usurpation; but the Duke of Buckingham, disgusted at some neglect, determined to depose him, and to advance Henry Earl of Richmond in his place.

Q. Was he successful in his attempt?

A. Buckingham's intentions being prematurely discovered, and his army abandoning him, he was betrayed into the hands of the king by his own servant, and beheaded at Salisbury, without even the form of a trial.

Q. Did Richmond still prosecute his design?

A. Richmond landed at Milford-haven in Wales with only 2000 men, but being joined by a considerable number of the English, he advanced to give Richard battle.

Q. What was the issue of the contest?

A. The two armies met at Bosworth-field in Leicestershire, and Richard performed prodigies of valour, but Lord Stanley having deserted him with 7000 men, he was defeated and slain; and Richmond was saluted by the title of Henry VII.

Q. What was the character of Richard III.?

A. Richard was possessed of great abilities, personal courage, and military talents, but was subtle, cruel, and vindictive.

BOOK V.

FROM THE ACCESSION OF HENRY VII. TO THE BEHEADING OF CHARLES I. A. D. 1649.

CHAPTER I.

HOUSE OF TUDOR.

Henry the Seventh. A. D. 1485—1509.

Q. Who was Henry VII.?

A. Henry VII. was descended by his mother's side from the house of Lancaster; and soon after his accession, by espousing Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV. he united the right of the house of York to his own.

Q. Was his claim quietly acceded to?

A. Henry's tranquillity was for several years disturbed by two impostors, Lambert Simnel, who personated the Earl of Warwick, and Perkin Warbeck, who pretended to be the Duke of York, who was murdered in the Tower with his brother Edward V.

Q. What do you remark of his subsequent government?

A. After frustrating the designs of his ene-

mies, and restoring tranquillity, Henry humbled the power of the barons, and enacted many useful laws for the encouragement of trade and navigation, and for securing the happiness of his people.

Q. How long did he reign?

A. Henry VII. reigned 23 years, and died of the gout in 1509, in the 52d year of his age.

Q. What was the character of this prince?

A. Henry VII. was a wise prince, but jealous of his authority; his principal weakness was his too great love of money, to gratify which, his ministers, Empson and Dudley, were often guilty of arbitrary measures.

Q. What important discovery was made in this reign?

A. Christopher Columbus, a native of Genoa, in the service of Spain, first discovered America, and landed on one of the Bahama Islands, Oct. 12, 1492, to which he gave the name of *San Salvador*—but Sebastian Cabot, a native of Bristol, first discovered the northern continent in 1498.

Q. Who were the contemporary sovereigns?

A. The sovereigns contemporary with Henry were, Frederick III. and Maximilian I. emperors of Germany; Bajazet II. emperor of the Turks; Ferdinand and Isabella, Catholic sovereigns of Spain; Charles VIII. and Louis XII. kings of France; John, king of Denmark

and Sweden; and James III. and James IV. of Scotland.

CHAPTER II.

Henry the Eighth. A. D. 1509—1547.

Q. What was the conduct of Henry on his accession?

A. Henry VIII. succeeded to the crown in the 18th year of his age; and having chosen Thomas Wolsey as his chief minister, he began to dissipate, in amusement, the great treasures amassed by his father.

Q. How many wives had he?

A. Henry had six wives; the first was Catharine, his brother's widow, whom he divorced; the second, Anne Boleyne, who was beheaded; the third, Jane Seymour, mother of Edward VI.; the fourth, Anne of Cleves, whom he divorced; the fifth, Catharine Howard, whom he beheaded, and the sixth, Catharine Parr, who survived him.

T. Relate the most remarkable events of this reign.

P. Henry VIII. quarrelled with the Pope, and took upon himself the title of Supreme Head of the Church: he also abolished the

monasteries, seized their revenues, but in point of doctrine retained the Romish faith.

Q. What were the military transactions of this reign?

A. Henry invaded France, but did not follow up his successes; at his return the Scots were defeated at Flodden-field, with the loss of their king, and the flower of the nobility.

Q. How long did this king reign?

A. Henry VIII. died in the 38th year of his reign, and the 56th of his age, A. D. 1547.

Q. What was the character of this prince?

A. Henry VIII. was tall and handsome in his person, but he must be detested in his character as an unfeeling and licentious tyrant.

Q. What eminent men lived in his reign?

A. The most distinguished characters were Cardinal Wolsey, for a long time the king's favourite, but who died in disgrace; Sir Thomas More, Lord Chancellor, who was beheaded for denying the king's supremacy; and in Saxony, Martin Luther, who preached the doctrine of the Reformation.

Q. Who were the contemporary sovereigns?

A. Contemporary with Henry VIII. were Charles V. emperor of Germany and king of Spain; Louis XII. and Francis I. kings of France; Gustavus Vasa, liberator and king of

Sweden; and James IV., James V., and Mary, sovereigns of Scotland.

CHAPTER III.

Edward the Sixth. A. D. 1547—1553.

Q. WHO was Edward VI.?

A. Edward VI. was the only son of Henry VIII. by Jane Seymour, his third wife. Being but nine years of age when his father died, the Duke of Somerset, his maternal uncle, was chosen protector.

Q. What were the chief events of this reign?

A. The principal events of Edward's reign were the completion of the Reformation, and the defeat of the Scots near Musselburgh, in which 10,000 of them were killed.

Q. What change did he make in the succession?

A. Edward being in a declining state of health, was persuaded by the intrigues of the new protector, the Duke of Northumberland, to appoint as his successor Lady Jane Grey, thus excluding his sisters Mary and Elizabeth, together with Mary, Queen of Scotland.

Q. What was the consequence of this act?

A. Edward dying shortly after, Northumberland caused Lady Jane to be proclaimed queen; but the nation acknowledged the title of Mary, and Lady Jane was confined in the Tower, after enjoying the sovereign power only ten days.

Q. How long did Edward reign, and what was his character?

A. Edward died in the 16th year of his age, and the seventh of his reign He was a very amiable, esteemed, and pious youth, and his loss was much lamented by the nation.

Q. What sovereigns were contemporary with Edward VI.?

A. Edward's contemporaries were, Charles V. emperor of Germany and king of Spain; Henry II. king of France; and Mary, queen of Scotland.

CHAPTER IV.

Mary. A. D. 1553—1558.

Q. Who was Queen Mary?

A. Mary was the daughter of Henry VIII. by his first wife, Catharine of Aragon.

Q. What were the first acts of her reign?

A. Mary, being a papist, began her reign by re-establishing that religion, and persecuting

the protestants, great numbers of whom were burned as heretics.

Q. Who were the principal victims of this persecution?

A. Among those who were burned alive for their religion, were Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Latimer, Ridley, and two other bishops; Rodgers, Saunders, and Taylor, eminent clergymen, with many others, all of whom suffered with astonishing fortitude.

Q. What other occurrences are worthy of notice?

A. The marriage of Mary to Philip, king of Spain, occasioned an insurrection, headed by Sir Thomas Wyat: it was, however, easily suppressed, but Mary took this opportunity of bringing to the scaffold Lady Jane Grey, and her husband Lord Guilford Dudley.

Q. What event accelerated the death of the queen?

A. Mary is said to have died of a broken heart at the loss of Calais,* in the 43d year of her age, and the sixth of her reign, A. D. 1558.

* Calais had been in the possession of the English upwards of 200 years, and was all that remained to them of their extensive possessions and conquests. It was taken by the French in eight days, although it had cost Edward III. a siege of 11 months.

Q. What was her character?

A. Mary was naturally cruel, and extremely bigoted; her only virtue was sincerity, and her vices obstinacy, tyranny, and revenge.

CHAPTER V.

Elizabeth. A. D. 1558—1603.

Q. WHO was Queen Elizabeth?

A. Elizabeth was daughter of Henry VIII. by Anne Boleyne, his second wife, and ascended the throne in the 25th year of her age, amid the acclamations of the nation.

Q. How did she begin her reign?

A. Elizabeth, upon coming to the throne, immediately restored the protestant religion nearly in the same form which we have at present the happiness to enjoy.

T. Describe the chief event of her reign.

P. In this reign the Spaniards prepared to invade England with a powerful fleet which they styled "the Invincible Armada;" but on its approach to the English shores, it was defeated, chiefly by the exertions of Sir Francis Drake.

Q. What severities tarnished the reign of Elizabeth?

A. The greatest stain upon the character of Elizabeth is, her putting to death, after a long and ungenerous confinement, Mary Queen of Scots, celebrated for her beauty and her misfortunes.

Q. What was the cause of Elizabeth's death?

A. Elizabeth died soon after the execution of her favourite, the Earl of Essex, which she had ordered in a moment of resentment.

Q. How long did she reign?

A. Elizabeth died in the 70th year of her age, and the 45th of her reign, A. D. 1603.

Q. What was the character of Elizabeth?

A. Elizabeth possessed eminent talents for government, and was happy in her choice of ministers; she was distinguished for vigour and penetration; but towards the latter part of her reign, she became haughty and despotic.

Q. What do you observe of her reign?

A. During the time of Elizabeth, the English nation made astonishing progress in arts, commerce, and literature; they became industrious, polite, and powerful, secure at home, and formidable abroad.

Q. What eminent men lived at this period?

A. In the reign of Elizabeth, lived the immortal Shakspeare; Edmund Spenser,

a celebrated poet; the admirable Crichton; and Cecil and Burleigh, two eminent statesmen.

Q. What else is worthy of notice?

A. In 1589, coaches were first introduced into England, and soon after watches were brought over from Germany; in this reign also Sir Francis Drake was the first Englishman that sailed round the world.

Q. What sovereigns were contemporary with Elizabeth?

A. During the reign of Elizabeth, Germany was governed by the emperors Ferdinand I., Maximilian II., and Rodolphus II.; France by Henry II., Francis II., Charles IX., Henry III., and Henry IV.; Spain and Portugal by Philip II. and Philip III.; and Scotland by Mary and James VI.

CHAPTER VI.

HOUSE OF STEWART.

James the First. A. D. 1603—1625.

Q. Who was James I.

A. James I. was the son of the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots, and succeeded to the crown in consequence of the will of the late queen, joined to his claim of hereditary right, as next in descent from Henry VII.

Q. What remarkable event happened in this reign?

A. The commencement of the reign of James I. was distinguished by the discovery and defeat of the gunpowder plot.

Q. What was the gunpowder plot?

A. The gunpowder plot was a scheme of the Roman Catholics, to blow up the king, and the two houses of parliament; but it was happily discovered by the sagacity of the monarch, and the conspirators put to death.

Q. What do you remark of the conduct of James I.?

A. James I. is much blamed for his partiality to favourites, and to the interest of the court of Spain, to which he sacrificed the brave Sir Walter Raleigh, who was beheaded for having committed hostilities on the Spanish settlements.

Q. How long did he reign?

A. James I. died in 1625, in the 59th year of his age, and the 22d of his reign over England: his reign over Scotland was almost of equal duration with his life, he having been crowned when only a year old.

Q. What were his merits?

A. James I. was remarkable for his great generosity, a pacific disposition, and the encouragement of arts and literature; but he encroached on the liberties of the people, and by that means laid the foundation of civil war.

Q. What eminent men lived in this reign?

A. During the reign of James lived Sir Walter Raleigh, an illustrious navigator and historian; Camden, the historian; Lord Chancellor Bacon, called the father of experimental philosophy; and Ben Jonson, a celebrated dramatic writer.

Q. What discoveries were made in this reign?

A. In 1619, Dr. Harvey discovered the circulation of the blood; and about the same time died Baron Napier, of Scotland, who invented the logarithms: in this reign also the present version of the Bible was published by royal authority.

Q. Who were the contemporary sovereigns?

A. The sovereigns contemporary with James I. were, Rodolphus II., Matthias I., and Ferdinand II., emperors of Germany; Henry IV. and Louis XII., kings of France; Philip III. and Philip IV., sovereigns of Spain and Portugal.

CHAPTER VII.

Charles the First. A. D. 1625—1649.

Q. WHAT are the principal features of this reign?

A. The reign of Charles I. is remarkable for the civil war which took place between him and the parliament.

Q. What was the cause of this war?

A. The civil war was chiefly caused by the attempts of the king, inheriting his father's notions of the royal prerogative, to raise taxes and levy money upon the people without the authority of parliament.

T. Name those who distinguished themselves at this period.

P. Among the chief instigators and conductors of the civil war, were Hampden, John Pym, General Fairfax, Ireton, Monk, and Oliver Cromwell.

Q. What was the result of this contest?

A. After fighting several battles with various success, Charles was totally defeated, and having given himself up to the Scotch army he was delivered over to the parliament, who beheaded him on the 30th of January, 1649, in the 49th year of his age, and the 24th of his reign.

Q. What was the character of this prince?

A. Charles I. had many virtues and accomplishments, but he permitted himself to be guided by ministers who advised those arbitrary measures which finally brought him to the block.

Q. What sovereigns were contemporary with Charles I.?

A. The contemporaries of Charles I. were, Ferdinand II. and Ferdinand III., emperors of Germany; Louis XIII. and Louis XIV., kings of France; Philip IV., of Spain; and John IV., of Portugal.

BOOK VI.

FROM THE FORMATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH, TO THE ACCESSION OF THE HOUSE OF BRUNSWICK, A. D. 1714.

CHAPTER I.

THE COMMONWEALTH.

Oliver Cromwell, Protector. A. D. 1654—1658.

Q. WHAT form of government was established after the king's death ?

A. Upon the death of Charles, the house of commons abolished the regal power, and declared the house of lords useless: the commonwealth was proclaimed, and the king's name changed to that of the *Keepers of the Liberties of England.*

Q. Did the parliament maintain with energy the superiority of England ?

A. The troops of the commonwealth under Oliver Cromwell reduced Scotland and Ireland, while Admiral Blake subdued the settlements

in America, and spread the terror of the English name by sea to every quarter of the globe.

Q. What change took place in the government?

A. Cromwell, having encouraged a dispute between the army and the house of commons, dissolved that assembly with an armed force, and caused himself to be declared Lord Protector of the commonwealth of England.

Q. What do you observe of Cromwell's administration?

A. Cromwell humbled the power of Holland and Spain, and maintained the national honour in foreign countries; while England was improving both in riches and in power.

Q. When did he die?

A. For some time before his death, Cromwell was subject to a perpetual disquietude; and after a most comfortless usurpation, he died, A. D. 1658, in the 60th year of his age, and the 5th of his protectorship.

Q. What character is given of Cromwell?

A. Oliver Cromwell was a man of considerable genius and capacity, and possessed great courage, ambition, and hypocrisy.

Q. By whom was he succeeded?

A. On the death of Oliver Cromwell his son Richard peaceably assumed the pro-

tectorship; but as he wanted ambition, and did not possess the confidence of the army, he resigned his power at the end of three months.

Q. What measures were now taken by the army?

A. Richard having abdicated the protectorship, General Monk assembled a free parliament, and proposed the restoration of the royal family, which meeting with the approbation of the people, Charles II. was recalled after an exile of twelve years.

CHAPTER II.

Charles the Second. A. D. 1661—1685.

Q. WHAT was the first act of Charles's reign?

A. Charles II. made his public entry into London on the 29th May, 1660, amid the acclamations of the people; and one of his first measures was to pass an act of general indemnity for all that had taken place.

Q. What were the principal occurrences of this reign?

A. Charles exiled his virtuous minister the earl of Clarendon, and having chosen men who did not enjoy the confidence of the people, several real or imaginary plots were

formed, which cost Lord Russel, Algernon Sidney, and others, their lives.

Q. What other events do you notice?

A. In 1665 a plague raged throughout England, and the year after the great fire of London consumed 13,000 houses; the Dutch also sailed up the Medway and destroyed several ships of war at Chatham.

Q. When did he die?

A. Charles died on the 6th of February, 1685, in the 55th year of his age; he left no children by his wife Catharine, Infanta of Portugal; and was succeeded by his brother James.

Q. What was the character of this prince?

A. Charles II. possessed an agreeable person and manners; but he was indolent, fond of pleasure, and little attached to the glory of England.

Q. What eminent men lived at this time?

A. In the reign of Charles II. lived the poets Milton and Butler; the Earl of Clarendon and Algernon Sidney, eminent politicians; and Thomas Otway, a writer of tragedies.

Q. What else is worthy of notice?

A. Charles II. established the Royal Society, and acceded to the Habeas Corpus act; in his reign also tea was first used in England.

Q. Who were the contemporary sovereigns?

A. The sovereigns contemporary with Charles II. were, Leopold, emperor of Germany; Louis XIV. king of France; Philip IV. and Charles II. of Spain; and Charles XI. of Sweden.

CHAPTER III.

James the Second. A. D. 1685—1688.

Q. Who next ascended the throne?

A. James, Duke of York, brother to the late king, now came to the throne; and having been bred a papist, he openly favoured that religion.

Q. What was the result?

A. The Duke of Monmouth excited a rebellion under pretext of preserving the protestant religion: but being defeated, he was beheaded with many of his followers.

Q. What were the other events of this reign.

A. James used the most arbitrary measures to introduce popery, so that the people applied for relief to William, Prince of Orange. who landed at Torbay on the 5th of November, 1688, with about 13,000 men.

Q. How was he received by the English?

A. The whole country soon flocked to the standard of William; and James, finding him-

self deserted by his friends, and even his children, retired to France, where he died A. D. 1701.

Q. On whom was the succession of the crown settled.

A. James having deserted the throne, the Prince and Princess of Orange were declared by parliament joint sovereigns, by the names of William and Mary.

Q. What name is given to this event, and what were its consequences?

A. This event is called the Revolution: by it all disputed points between the king and people were determined; the power of the king was diminished, and many valuable privileges were obtained for the people.

CHAPTER. IV.

William and Mary. A. D. 1688—1702.

Q. Who was William III.?

A. William III., son of William, Prince of Orange, and of Henrietta, daughter of Charles I., was born in Holland, and was married to Mary, daughter of James III.

Q. What were the principal events of his reign?

A. James having returned from France, and raised an army in Ireland, William, de-

feated him in the memorable battle of the Boyne; a powerful French fleet which was coming to invade England was also entirely destroyed.

Q. What minor occurrences do you notice in this reign?

A. In the reign of William III. the Bank of England was established, and the first public lottery was drawn.

Q. What was the cause of William's death?

A. William died in consequence of a fall from his horse, March 8, 1702, in the 52d year of his age, and the 14th of his reign: Queen Mary had died before him, of the small pox, without children.

Q. What was the character of William?

A. William was possessed of talents and personal bravery, but his manners were cold and forbidding; the great object of his ambition during his life was to humble the power of Louis XIV. of France.

Q. What eminent men flourished during this reign?

A. In the reign of William III. lived Dryden Tillotson, Locke, and Sir Isaac Newton.

Q. What sovereigns were contemporary with William III.?

A. During the reign of William III., Leopold ruled in Germany: Louis XIV. in France; Charles II. and Philip V. in Spain

and Portugal; Charles XII. in Sweden: and Peter the Great in Russia.

CHAPTER V.

Anne. A. D. 1702—1714.

Q. Who was Queen Anne?

A. Queen Anne was the second daughter of James II., and was married to Prince George of Denmark.

Q. What were the most memorable events of her reign?

A. During the reign of Anne, the honour of the British arms was carried to a great height, by the Duke of Marlborough, who humbled the power of France in the glorious battles of Blenheim, Ramilies, &c.

Q. What other transactions deserve notice?

A. In this reign also Gibraltar was taken by Sir George Rooke, and in 1706 the union between England and Scotland was effected.

Q. To what cause is the queen's death attributed?

A. Towards the end of Queen Anne's reign, the disputes between the Whig and Tory parties had such an effect upon her spirits and constitution, that she sunk into a

lethargy, of which she died in the 50th year of her age, and the 13th of her reign, A. D. 1714.

Q. What was the character of this princess?

A. Queen Anne possessed many excellent qualities; and the people dignified her with the title of the *Good Queen Anne*, on account of her piety and extensive charities.

Q. Who were the most eminent personages of her reign?

A. The reign of Queen Anne is remarkable for the number of literary geniuses it produced: among the most celebrated were Addison, Pope, Steele, Swift, Gay, Congreve, Rowe, Prior, and Bolingbroke.

Q. Who were the contemporaries of Anne?

A. The sovereigns contemporary with Anne were, Leopold, Joseph I., and Charles VI., emperors of Germany; Louis XIV. king of France; Philip I. of Spain; Charles XII. of Sweden; and Frederick, the first king of Prussia.

BOOK VII.

FROM THE ACCESSION OF THE HOUSE OF BRUNSWICK TO THE PRESENT TIME.

CHAPTER I.

George the First. A. D. 1714—1727.

Q. Who was George I.?

A. George I. was duke of Brunswick and elector of Hanover; he succeeded as the next protestant heir, his mother Sophia having been granddaughter of James I.

Q. What rebellion took place in this reign?

A. About a year after the king's accession, the Pretender, son of James II., raised a rebellion in Scotland and England, which, though easily suppressed, proved fatal to many noblemen who had espoused his cause.

Q. What were the consequences of this rebellion?

A. In consequence of the disturbed state of the nation after this rebellion, the parliament, which before was renewed every three years, voted a continuance of their duration from three to seven years.

Q. What event distinguished the year 1720?

A. The year 1720 was rendered remarkable by the fraud practised on the nation by the directors of the South Sea Company, which involved many thousands of families in ruin.

Q. What distinguished trials took place in this reign?

A. In 1722, Atterbury, Bishop of Rochester, was deprived of his see and banished for high-treason: the Earl of Macclesfield, Lord Chancellor, was also tried and severely fined for fraudulent practices.

Q. Where did the king's death take place?

A. King George, having crossed the sea to visit Hanover, died suddenly at Osnaburg, on the 11th of June, 1727, in the 68th year of his age, and the 13th of his reign.

Q. What was the character of this prince?

A. George I. was distinguished for firmness and political sagacity, but inclined to party spirit, and much attached to his continental possession.

Q. What celebrated men died in this reign?

A. In the reign of George I. died Sir Christopher Wren, an eminent architect, and Sir Godfrey Kneller, a great painter.

Q. What important discovery was then made?

A. In 1727 inoculation for the small-pox was first tried with success on two criminals, who in consequence received their pardon.

CHAPTER II.

George the Second. A. D. 1727—1760.

Q. Who succeeded George I.?

A. George I. was succeeded by his son George II. who was proclaimed King of Great Britain on the 15th of June, 1727.

Q. What do you observe of the commencement of this reign?

A. The beginning of this reign was distinguished by the debates in parliament on several measures of Sir R. Walpole, prime minister; and Frederick Prince of Wales,* who placed himself at the head of the opposition, and Walpole retired from power.

Q. What naval enterprises took place about this time?

A. In a war with Spain, Admiral Vernon took and destroyed Porto Bello, and Lord Anson, in his voyage round the world, captured a large Spanish galleon loaded with treasure.

T. Describe the rebellion of 1745.

P. The young Pretender, grandson of James II., raised a rebellion in Scotland, and having defeated the king's troops at Preston Pans, he advanced as far as Derby, but was

* Frederick, Prince of Wales, was father of George III., and died in 1751, universally lamented by the nation. He lived for many years at variance with his father, but was afterward reconciled to him.

soon after totally routed at Culloden by the Duke of Cumberland.

Q. What was the success of the war against France?

A. During the war with France, which began in 1755, Colonel Clive established our empire in the East Indies, and several West India islands were taken; but Admiral Byng having failed in relieving Majorca, on his return, was shot at Portsmouth.

Q. What were our other conquests?

A. During the year 1758, the English subjected all Canada and the other French possessions in North America; but they lost the gallant General Wolfe, who gloriously fell in the moment of victory.

Q. What was the success of the British arms in Europe?

A. The French, having invaded the British possessions in Germany, were defeated in the memorable battle of Minden; while two of their fleets were destroyed by Admirals Boscawen and Hawke.

Q. What do you remark of the king's death?

A. While the British arms were prosperous in every quarter of the globe, George II. was seized with a sudden illness, of which he died, October 25, 1760, in the 33d year of his reign, and the 77th of his age.

Q. What was the character of this prince?

A. George II. was not possessed of shining abilities, and is said to have been violent in his temper; but, on the other hand, was brave, generous, and sincere.

Q. What eminent men flourished in this reign?

A. In the reign of George II. lived Young, Grey, Sterne, Hume, Sir R. Walpole, and the celebrated statesman William Pitt, Earl of Chatham.

Q. What incidents are worthy of mention?

A. The winter of 1740 was so severe, that the river Thames was frozen, and a fair held on the ice: in 1756 the nabob of Bengal confined 146 Englishmen in the black-hole, at Calcutta, of whom 123 were found dead in the morning.

Q. Who were the contemporary sovereigns?

A. The sovereigns contemporary with George II. were, Charles VII., and Francis I., emperors of Germany; Louis XV., king of France; Philip V., Ferdinand VI., and Charles III., of Spain; and Frederick II. and Frederick III., of Prussia.

CHAPTER III.

George the Third.

Q. Who succeeded George II.?

A. George II. was succeeded by his grandson, George III., eldest son of Frederick, late Prince of Wales.

T. Describe the occurrences of the new reign.

P. The contest with France was still carried on with success, and in the war with Spain, which followed soon after, Havana, the capital of Cuba, was taken, and a register ship, worth a million sterling, was captured by two frigates.

Q. What changes took place in the administration?

A. Soon after the king's accession, Mr. Pitt, afterward Earl of Chatham, resigned his office of prime minister, and was succeeded by the Duke of Newcastle, who, in 1762, made way for the Earl of Bute, the king's tutor, under whom a peace was concluded with France in 1763.

Q. What circumstance agitated the nation at the commencement of this reign?

A. Mr. Wilkes, a member of parliament, involved himself in a contest with the court, which excited a flame throughout the kingdom.

Q. What measures gave rise to the American war?

A. Lord Bute having resigned, Mr. Grenville was appointed prime minister, and advised the king to impose taxes on the British colonies of North America.

Q. What consequences ensued?

A. The colonies resisted, and after a seven years' war, were acknowledged free and independent states.

Q. What changes of ministry took place in consequence?

A. Lord North, who had conducted the American war, was succeeded by the Marquis of Rockingham, Lord Shelbourne, and Mr. Fox; but the latter soon made way for Mr. Pitt, son of the late Earl of Chatham.

Q. What other important events occurred about this time?

A. In 1780 great riots happened in London, in consequence of some indulgences granted to the Roman Catholics: and in 1782 Admiral Rodney obtained a signal victory over the French fleet.

Q. What events distinguished the year 1788?

A. In 1788, his majesty was seized with a mental disorder, which rendered him unfit for the exercise of his high functions; but he recovered before a bill of regency was completed: the celebrated trial of Warren Has-

tings, also took place before the House of Peers.

Q. What memorable event happened about the same period upon the continent?

A. In 1789 began the memorable Revolution in France, which deluged that kingdom with blood, changed the form of government into a republic, and finally brought Louis XVI. to the scaffold.

Q. What were the consequences of this event?

A. In 1793, the French convention commenced war against England, which lasted till 1802, during which several victories were obtained over the French and their allies, by Admirals Howe, St. Vincent, Duncan, and Nelson.

Q. What expeditions were undertaken to check the progress of the French?

A. In 1799, the Duke of York conducted an expedition against Holland: and the French were expelled from Egypt, which they had conquered, by General Abercrombie, who gloriously fell in the battle of Alexandria.

Q. What events do you notice connected with Ireland?

A. A dreadful rebellion took place in Ireland, in 1798, which was not quelled without much bloodshed; and in 1801, the kingdom was united to Great Britain.

Q. How long did the peace continue?

A. The peace of 1802 lasted only a year, owing to the restless spirit of Napoleon Buonaparte, who got himself appointed First Consul, and shortly after Emperor of France.

Q. What important victory was obtained in the early part of this war?

A. On the 21st of October, 1805, Lord Nelson obtained a glorious victory over the combined fleets of France and Spain, off Cape Trafalagar; but the gallant admiral was killed in the action, to the inexpressible grief of the whole nation.

Q. What other events are worthy of notice?

A. In 1806 the Cape of Good Hope was taken: and in the succeeding year Copenhagen was bombarded, and the whole of the Danish navy surrendered to the English: the slave trade was also finally abolished.

A. In what contests did England engage to check the progress of the French?

A. The French having taken military occupation of the kingdoms of Spain and Portugal, the inhabitants solicited the protection of the English, who sent over a large body of men under Sir Arthur Wellesley, now Duke of Wellington.

Q. What was the success of this war?

A. In 1810 the French army evacuated

Portugal, and in its retreat through Spain was defeated at Talavera, Salamanca, and Vittoria; in 1812 it was finally pursued into France, and again defeated before Toulouse.

T. Describe the military occurrences in the other parts of the world.

P. In 1809 the English sent out a considerable expedition to Walcheren, which ended very disastrously: but they were successful in other parts of the globe, and in the next year the French were deprived of their last possessions in the East and West Indies.

Q. What events happened in England worthy of record?

A. The Prince of Wales was appointed Regent, in consequence of the king's incapacity; and Mr. Perceval, the prime minister, was shot, at the entrance of the House of Commons.

T. Relate the circumstances that led to the peace of 1814.

P. Buonaparte invaded Russia with an army of 600,000 men, and reached Moscow; but being obliged to retreat, the severity of the climate, and the attacks of the Russians almost annihilated his army.

Q. What were the consequences of this disastrous expedition?

A. Great Britain, Austria, Russia, and Prussia concluded an alliance, engaging to

bring into the field a military force sufficient to crush the dangerous power of France, and to restore the independence of the European states.

Q. What was the success of this confederation?

A. After defeating the French at Leipsic, and in other well-contested battles, the combined troops entered France, and occupied Paris on the 31st of March, 1814.

Q. How did the French people now act?

A. The French Senate appointed a provisional government, and after obliging Buonaparte to abdicate the throne, invited over their legitimate monarch, Louis XVIII., who was then residing in England.

Q. What steps were taken with regard to Buonaparte?

A. Buonaparte was sent to the Island of Elba, of which he was to retain the sovereignty, and to receive a pension of 20,000*l.*

Q. What circumstances attended the return of peace?

A. The return of peace was celebrated with illuminations and rejoicings in every part of the kingdom, and the emperor of Russia, the king of Prussia, with the veteran generals Blucher and Platoff, took that opportunity of visiting England.

Q. In what contest was England still engaged?

A. The English had been engaged in a war with the United States of America since June, 1812, which was carried on with vigour by both parties, by sea and land, until December, 1814.

Q. What again disturbed the peace of Europe?

A. Buonaparte returned from Elba, in May, 1815, and landing in France, recovered the imperial dignity.

Q. What measures did other powers adopt?

A. The allies immediately determined to expel the usurper, and having marched their forces to Belgium,* they were soon opposed by Buonaparte in person.

Q. What battles took place?

A. Buonaparte attacked the British and allied troops at Waterloo, and after a long and bloody conflict, he suffered a memorable defeat, June 18th, 1815.

Q. What was the consequence of this success?

A. The allies once more entered France, and restored Louis XVIII. Buonaparte delivered himself up to the English, who sent him to St. Helena, where he remained a prisoner until his death, May 5th, 1821.

* Belgium, a country surrounding France, and part of the newly formed kingdom of the Netherlands.

Q. What events distinguished the year 1816 ?

A. On the 2d of May of this year Prince Leopold of Saxe Cobourg was married to the Princess Charlotte of Wales ; and in August, Lord Exmouth was sent out with a large fleet against the Algerines, whom he obliged to liberate their European captives, and to abolish for ever Christian slavery.

Q. What was the state of England about this time ?

A. By the sudden change from war to peace, our commerce, manufactures, and agriculture were seriously affected, and threw multitudes out of employ.

Q. What were the consequences of this distress ?

A. The continued distress of the lower orders produced meetings and combinations in London and other large towns, which finally broke out into seditious outrages.

Q. What step was taken to stop these disorders.

A. Parliament passed a bill for the suspension of the Habeas Corpus act, and some of the most active leaders were taken and executed : while others, after having been imprisoned for a considerable time, were released on the repeal of the Suspension Bill.

Q. What calamitous event happened in 1817 ?

A. On the 6th of November, the Princess Charlotte of Wales died in the 22d year of her age, after having given birth to a stillborn son.

Q. What was the public feeling on this occasion?

A. Her piety, her abilities, her love for her country, and her benevolent and virtuous character, were the topics of general praise; her untimely fate was bewailed as a puolic calamity; and the day of her funeral was observed in every part of the empire, as one of general grief and humiliation.

Q. What marriages took place?

A. The Dukes of Clarence, Kent, and Cambridge were united to German princesses; and the Princess Elizabeth was married to the Prince of Hesse Hombourg.

Q. What were the domestic occurrences of the year 1818?

A. The year 1818 was distinguished by a general election, and the death of her gracious majesty, Queen Charlotte, who died at Kew, on the 17th of November, in the 75th year of her age.

Q. What were the political events of this year?

A. A meeting of the allied sovereigns was held at Aix-la-Chapelle, and it was agreed that, in consequence of the tranquil state of the French nation, the troops that had been left in

France should be recalled; accounts were also received from India that the war there had been brought to a successful issue.

T. Describe the most remarkable events of 1819.

P. On the 16th of August, the inhabitants of Manchester and its neighbourhood assembled to the number of 60,000 persons, headed by Mr. Hunt, a notorious orator at other assemblies; but the proceedings were hardly commenced when the leaders were arrested, and the yeomanry cavalry being ordered to disperse the people, several lives were lost and many persons were severely wounded.

Q. What measures were taken to prevent the recurrence of similar tumults?

A. Several acts of parliament were passed, to prevent tumultuous meetings; Mr. Hunt and others were tried and sentenced to imprisonment; and Sir F. Burdett having written a letter to the inhabitants of Westminster, reflecting in severe terms on the conduct of ministers, was also tried, and the letter declared to be a libel.

Q. What important events distinguished the commencement of 1820?

A. About the middle of January, his royal highness Edward Duke of Kent died of a violent cold; and on the 29th of the same month took place the demise of our venerable monarch, George III., in the 82d year of

his age, and the 60th of his reign, the longest and most glorious in the annals of Britain.

Q. What was the character of George III.?

A. George III. was a just, merciful, and virtuous prince: intrepid in the discharge of his royal functions, and setting a laudable example to his subjects, by his firm attachment to moral and religious duties.

CHAPTER IV.

George the Fourth.

Q. When was George IV. proclaimed?

A. George, Prince of Wales, Regent of the United Kingdom, was proclaimed king on Monday, the 31st of January, 1821.

Q. What event distinguished the commencement of this reign?

A. On the 23d of February, a conspiracy was formed, by a number of obscure and wretched individuals, for the purpose of assassinating his majesty's ministers; but being discovered, they were tried and found guilty of high-treason, and Thistlewood, with four others, suffered death.

Q. What are the circumstances connected with the trial of the queen?

A. The queen, while Princess of Wales,

had separated from her husband, and had retired to the continent, where reports were circulated derogatory to her honour ; so that, on her return to England, ministers thought it expedient to institute proceedings, tending to degrade and divorce her majesty.

Q. What was the result of the trial ?

A. A Bill of Pains and Penalties was brought into the House of Lords, which, after the evidence had been heard on both sides, was on the smallness of the majority, on a third reading, finally withdrawn.

APPENDIX.

REMARKS ON THE PRESENT STATE OF LITERATURE AND THE ARTS IN ENGLAND.

During the reign of his late Majesty George III. almost every branch of literature and science was cultivated in England with ability and success. In *Divinity*, although the scriptural basis remains the same, yet the doctrines of the church have been more clearly illustrated; and Bishops Horne, Horseley, Lowth, Porteus, Watson, and other dignitaries, have employed their time in disseminating the principles of morality and religion. *Natural Philosophy* has been improved by an extension of the Newtonian system; and the sedulous attention paid to *Chemistry*, by Priestley, Davy, Accum, Parkes, and others, has been rewarded by various important discoveries. *Agriculture* owes much of its improvement to the countenance of the late king, and the laudable pursuits of Mr. Arthur Young. *Botany* also has

been rendered fashionable, by the patronage and attention which it received from the late amiable Princess Charlotte.

The different branches of *Medicine* have been brought to the highest pitch of perfection, by Abernethy, Bell, Cullen, Horne, and others; and that fatal disorder, the small-pox, has been almost entirely annihilated, by the discovery of vaccination.

Literature is most liberally encouraged, and England may be considered the seat of learning and the Muses. *History* and *Biography* have been illuminated and dignified by the writings of Johnson, Henry, Gibbon, Hume, Smollet, Goldsmith, Robertson, &c. : and the literary works of Bell, Brooke, Bryan, Douglass, Edgeworth, Hunter, Coxe, Paley, Priestley, Price, Clara Reeve, Charlotte Smith, Montague, &c. &c. will be perused with interest by posterity. *Poetry* has been cultivated with eminent success ; but although more gorgeous, picturesque, and fanciful, than it was in the time of Pope, it seems to have declined in perspicuity and coherence—in elegance and in force.—Among the most distinguished favourites of the Muses are, Byron, Beattie, Campbell, Cowper, Coleridge, Goldsmith, Mason, Montgomery, Proctor, Rogers, Shenstone, Southey, Walter Scott, Wordsworth, and many females, whose poetical powers have been pre-eminently displayed.

Since the establishment of the Royal Academy, by his late majesty, the accomplished art of *Painting* has been revived with ardour, and the productions of the present century may be put in competition with those of the most eminent and ancient masters. Among the painters of the first class that adorned the late reign are, Reynolds, West, Lawrence (now president of the Royal Academy), Beechy, Romney, Opie, Jackson, Morland, Gainsborough, Harlowe, Wilkie, Shee, and many others. The *Sculptors* meet with little employment, few of our public buildings being adorned with statues; although the inimitable works of Flaxman, Westmacott, and Chantry prove that the genius of British artists is no way inferior to that of other nations. *Music* has not attained excellence in proportion as it has been disseminated through almost all the orders of the community; yet we have instances of transcendent native talent in the vocal powers of Braham, Corri, Dickons, Salmon, and Stephens; as well as in the compositions of Arne, Bishop, Busby, Hook, and Shield.

Besides the discoveries already noticed, galvanism has opened a wide [illegible] philosophical inquiry. Engr[illegible]
stone has also bee[illegible]
the beautiful li[illegible]
in lamps, &

His late majesty took every opportunity of promoting the improvement of geography, and of directing it to the noblest ends, namely, the enlargement of science, and the civilization of mankind. Under his auspices, Byron, Wallis, Cook, and Carteret have immortalized their names by numerous and important discoveries. For the present reign, however, was reserved the glory of carrying on the spirit of maritime enterprise to its greatest extent; and the intrepid perseverance of Parry and his gallant companions, in abiding the rigour of an Arctic winter, will be viewed with admiration to the latest posterity.

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THE END.

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